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I.—*On the Ornithology of Cyprus.*—Part II.*

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377 †. *MUSCICAPA GRISOLA* Linn.

The Spotted Flycatcher was first identified in Cyprus by Sibthorp. Lord Lilford found it tolerably abundant in April and May, and Guillemard obtained specimens as late as the 25th of the latter month. Miss Bate observed it frequently on the southern range in summer, as well as in the plains in spring; and Glaszner sent Madarász a number of specimens taken in May, August, September, and October.

From the 11th of April until the 19th of May, 1909, Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found it fairly numerous in various localities, and obtained several examples; but we did not find its nest. The bird is no doubt mainly a spring and autumn visitor, but some remain and breed in the mountains.

378. *MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA* Linn.

Sibthorp obtained the Pied Flycatcher on the Troödos Mountains on April the 23rd, 1787. Lord Lilford thought it not very abundant, but noticed it in the south of the Karpas in April. Guillemard met with it near Famagusta late in

* Continued from 'The Ibis,' 1909, p. 613.

† The numbers in front of the names are those of Dresser's 'Manual of Palearctic Birds.'

May, but Glaszner does not appear to have sent any specimens to Madarász. However, it is by no means a rare spring and autumn migrant, and Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found it not at all uncommon from April the 3rd to the end of that month near Nicosia and Papho, and obtained several specimens. In my garden at the former town during this period one or two were nearly always to be seen in company with *M. grisola*. I have no evidence, as yet, of its remaining to nest in the island, though it is not at all improbable that a few pairs do so.

388. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA* Linn.

The Swallow is a very abundant summer visitor, arriving towards the end of February and leaving about the middle of October. A few always seem to appear about the 21st of the former month, and Guillemard noticed one as early as the 13th: by the end of the first week in March the main body has arrived, and in the middle of that month they commence to build—often using their old nests. In the plains they breed, as is the case with other species in the island, somewhat earlier than in the mountains.

In Nicosia I found fresh full clutches on April the 4th; on May the 8th the young were well fledged, and they flew on the 23rd; but in the hills Horsbrugh took fresh eggs as late as May the 12th, and on July the 8th the young birds on the top of Troödos were still unable to fly.

At the end of September, when it begins to get damp and cold on the hills, those which have frequented the mountains leave them and descend to the plains, from which, though a few linger till towards the end of October, they all finally disappear about a fortnight later.

391. Subsp. *HIRUNDO SAVIGNII* Steph.

The Egyptian Chimney-Swallow, which has been accorded by some a subspecific status under the above name, may be, for practical purposes, classed with *H. rustica*, and I do not think I can do better than quote Guillemard's remarks in connection with the relations which exist in Cyprus between the two forms. He writes, "The difference in the colouring

of the under surface of these birds (Swallows) is extraordinary. It is quite common in Cyprus to see it ranging from nearly white to a deep reddish buff, from *Hirundo rustica* to *H. savignii* in other words. Although one may often see these extremes in a paired couple, the differences in colouring do not appear to be sexual. In Cyprus, at any rate, it is impossible to allow that *H. savignii* is a good species." To this I can add nothing. I know of no difference between the two forms in habits or distribution in the Island.

393. *HIRUNDO RUFULA* Temm.

The Red-rumped Swallow is a summer visitor in some abundance, but is capricious in its local nesting-haunts. Lord Lilford met with it only in the Karpas and at Famagusta. Müller refers to nine adults and one juvenile specimen, and mentions several clutches of eggs taken between April the 23rd and May the 27th. Guillemard found it nesting on the Famagusta battlements in April, at the ruins of Bellapais in May, at Kyrenia, Larnaca tes Lapethou, and near Poli in the Papho district, and saw a single specimen as early as March 6th. Glaszner sent a few to Madarász, collected on Troödos in May and June. Horsbrugh found a good many in the Troödos Range in the same months, and observed the bird in several places in May on low grounds in the Papho district. He discovered a number of nests near the camp on the Troödos heights—one with nearly fully fledged young on the 2nd of June. I have no exact details of its migratory movements, but expect that it arrives in early April and leaves at the end of September.

396. *CHELIDON URBICA* (Linn.).

The House-Martin is a summer visitor in considerable numbers, but of local distribution, particularly in its choice of breeding-sites. It was included by Sibthorp in his list. Lord Lilford saw few, but Guillemard found it nesting in very large numbers at the Kykko Monastery, on the Troödos Range, at the end of May. Glaszner does not seem to have sent any specimens to Madarász. In July, August, and

September 1908 I found this species, at times, common on Troödos, but saw none after the end of the last-named month.

It arrives early and a few, no doubt, stay in or straggle to the island in winter, Guillemard having observed a solitary specimen in December. The bulk appear, I think, in March, though Mr. Nicolls reported a flock at the sea-coast near Episcopi (Limassol district) on the 5th of February this year (1909). The first seen by Horsbrugh were on April the 8th at the Kouklia reservoir, and afterwards, in early June, he noticed a fair number on the southern range. Mr. Baxendale came across a large colony this year at the end of May nesting on some cliffs at Amargeti in the Papho district.

I have never seen it close to Nicosia.

400. *COTILE RIPARIA* (Linn.).

Lord Lilford states that the Sand-Martin, which was observed in April and May, but regarded by him as not common in any part of the island which he visited, was included in Unger and Kotschy's list: but this is a mistake.

Müller mentions an adult male taken in spring; Guillemard, who did not obtain specimens, also, according to Lord Lilford, noticed this species, but, apparently, makes no mention of it in his 'Ibis' articles. Glaszner does not appear to have sent Madarász any specimens. Horsbrugh observed a considerable number during his visit—the first being seen at Acheriton reservoir on March the 23rd; four days later it occurred there in some numbers, and on April the 7th, 8th, and 9th in abundance; Mr. Baxendale first noticed it at Papho on March the 29th; and the latest note of its presence of which I have any record is on May the 25th near the same place. The Sand-Martin may perhaps nest in some suitable localities, but I do not know of any definite record of its having done so. In any case it is not a very abundant visitor on the spring and autumn migrations.

402. *COTILE RUPESTRIS* Scop.

The Crag-Martin was first recorded by Lord Lilford, who saw it once only, in small numbers in the Karpas district. Guillemard found it nesting at the end of March near the

ruins of Kantara Castle on the northern range, and also under the eaves of the High Commissioner's house on Troödos in the middle of April; he obtained specimens. Glaszner sent some to Madarász taken on Troödos in June and September.

The Crag-Martin is, I think, not a resident, though there is some local difference of opinion on this point. In the first half of February 1909 I saw considerable numbers on the sea coast, near Papho, which, I thought, had just arrived; I next observed a few at Buffarento on the Kyrenia Mountains in mid-March; Mr. Nicolls found the bird nesting on Troödos in early May; Horsbrugh saw a fair number and obtained several in the southern range from mid-May till early June, and discovered on Troödos several nests with young or without eggs and obtained one addled egg during that period. In early July of 1908 I found nests on Troödos with well advanced fledglings, all of which had flown by the 12th of August; while the last date on which I observed the birds there that year was September the 30th.

Personally I think that this Martin is only a summer visitor to Cyprus and very local in its distribution, arriving normally about the third week in March and leaving when cold weather drives it back to North Africa again, about the beginning of October. So far as I am aware its only breeding places are amongst the heights of both the mountain ranges.

404. *CARDUELIS ELEGANS* Steph.

The Goldfinch is a very abundant and common resident all over the island. It was included by Sibthorp in his list. It is a familiar cage-bird in the bazaars.

Horsbrugh and I found highly incubated eggs in the plains as early as March the 23rd, and fully fledged young at the end of April, but it breeds right away from the former date until May, and Horsbrugh saw young still in the nest as late as the 16th of that month.

Cyprus Goldfinches vary somewhat in size and brightness of colour, some specimens being very brilliant.

407. *CHRYSOMITRIS SPINUS* (Linn.).

The only note which I have as to the occurrence of the Siskin in Cyprus is that I saw, in July 1908, on Troödos two caged male birds said by their owner to have been taken in the preceding spring near Limassol. The fact that they were in the same hands as the female Greenfinch referred to below did not, however, strengthen my belief in the alleged locality of their capture. But, I observe, that there was in 1907 a great invasion of the Siskin into Egypt. This species would, of course, only be a winter visitor to the island.

412. *SERINUS HORTULANUS* Koch.

The Serin Finch is a fairly abundant bird in Cyprus and seems to have been first definitely noticed by Lord Lilford, who found it not uncommon in the south of the island. Müller mentions a clutch of eggs which he thought were those of this species. Guillemard, who did not regard it on the whole as common, met with it in January, March and April, and Glaszner sent a few to Madarász taken in May and June. Horsbrugh and I found plenty in March near Nicosia, and the former noticed it at the end of May and beginning of June in some abundance on Troödos, where it was evidently breeding, for he obtained there a very juvenile specimen. It is without doubt a partial resident, but at the spring and autumn migrations its numbers are, I think, considerably augmented.

416. *LIGURINUS CHLORIS* (Linn.).

The Greenfinch was included by Lord Lilford in his list on the authority of Guillemard, but no data of its occurrence are given and it is not mentioned in the latter's 'Ibis' articles. Lord Lilford evidently included the species with considerable hesitation, and it has not, so far as I know, been hitherto observed by anyone else.

I saw a caged female on Troödos in the summer of 1908, which I was informed had been taken near Limassol in the early part of that year. It seemed to me to be of normal appearance and not to exhibit any particularly bright

coloration such as is usual, presumably, in specimens from the Levant.

The Greenfinch would only be found in the Island in winter.

421. *COCCOTHTRAUSTES VULGARIS* Pall.

Guillemard, in April 1888, saw a caged specimen at Papho, said to have been caught on the slopes of Troödos. Glaszner sent two male birds to Madarász, taken near Larnaca on January 4th and February 12th, 1903. A single bird was observed at Nicosia in December 1905 by Mr. G. F. Wilson.

This is apparently an uncommon winter visitor.

424. *PASSER DOMESTICUS* (Linn.).

The House Sparrow is a common resident near inhabited places, though I do not think that it is nearly so abundant as one finds it generally in England. I have no note of having seen it on Troödos, though this may, possibly, be due to my own remissness.

It nests in April and May and even in later months of the summer, and in autumn packs in small flocks and raids the threshing floors. It is now unprotected at any season by a law passed this year (1909).

It was included by Sibthorp in his list.

426. *PASSER HISPANIOLENSIS* (Temm.).

The Spanish Sparrow appears to have been first taken in Cyprus by Pearse, who sent a few specimens to Lord Lilford. Guillemard obtained a male at Machaira Monastery on March 12th, 1888, but makes no mention of the species in his 'Ibis' articles. Glaszner sent a female to Madarász taken near Larnaca in November 1901, and kindly lent for my inspection a remarkable female specimen of a *Passer*, which he designates as an albino of this, but which, in my opinion, may well be of the common species. Sparrows are always the last birds to which any attention is paid, and I regret to say that with regard to the presence of this species in Cyprus I can at present only express my own ignorance.

432. PETRONIA STULTA (Gmel.).

As *Fringilla petronia* Linn., the Rock Sparrow is included by Sibthorp in his list, but apparently he does not mention it in his journal. It duly re-appears in Unger and Kotschy's list and in those of the later writers, without any additional remarks. No one has hitherto been able to confirm Sibthorp's record.

450. FRINGILLA CŒLEBS Linn.

The Chaffinch is a common resident and it is rather remarkable that, apparently, it was not recorded prior to Guillemard's visit. Even he has little to say about it; he met with a single specimen in February near Nicosia, and found it in June on Troödos; he, however, brought back three specimens, two obtained on Troödos in April and May, and one near Limassol in March. Glaszner sent a good series to Madarász, obtained in January, February, May, June, September, and December in various localities, and the bird is casually mentioned by Miss Bate.

Guillemard thought that the Chaffinch retreats to the hills in the summer. Its movements in the island are in my opinion rather similar to those of some other local species, and are sufficiently interesting to be referred to in some detail. The extreme heat and the sunburnt arid character of the plains during the summer months, coupled with the scarcity of water, render the hills, with plenty of foliage, a cooler climate and the perpetual streams a far more preferable home for most birds which spend the hot part of the year in the Island. The Chaffinch well exemplifies this fact.

In the winter months it is abundant in the plains, and I have no doubt that its numbers are then largely increased by visitors from the north. In February or the beginning of March it breaks into song, and towards the end of April those individuals which have not migrated north retire to nest in the cooler parts of the mountains. From May to the middle of October it is very common on Troödos; it nests there in May and June, Horsbrugh having found young on the 1st of May, while Mr. Nicolls sent me a clutch of fresh eggs,

which he had taken on the 2nd of that month (1909). At the end of October it descends by gradual stages to the plains again, the first examples appearing in 1909 at Nicosia on October the 30th, and Mr. Baxendale finding it on the long slopes of the Papho forest foothills about the same time and at Papho town on November the 5th. From that date onwards it is again abundant in the plains till the following spring.

458. *LINOTA CANNABINA* (Linn.).

The Linnet, which was probably identified by Sibthorp as *Linota linaria*, appears to be largely resident. It may often be observed in winter, and nests in summer amongst the hills. Lord Lilford found it common during his visit and Guillemard, who called it "generally distributed," noticed it in great numbers—still packed in flocks—at the end of March; he also met with it near Limni (Papho district) and on Troödos in June. Glaszner sent Madarász a few specimens taken in February and March. Horsbrugh and I obtained others from the beginning of March onwards and he found it fairly common on the Troödos hills, taking several clutches of fresh or slightly incubated eggs in the first half of May.

Guillemard, who remarked on the brilliance of its plumage, describes the form he met with as *Fringilla bella* Cabanis, the type of variation exhibited by Asiatic specimens; Madarász states that the examples he has seen correspond with the European form and are synonymous with *L. fringillirostris* (Bp.). Lord Lilford did not consider that Guillemard's specimens exhibited any very remarkable feature except, in one case, bright coloration. Personally I can only say that the Linnets which I have handled in the island were of a good size and shewed much rose-colour. From my own observation I should add that the numbers of the Linnet in the island appear to be augmented by migrants in spring and autumn.

461. [*LINOTA LINARIA* (Linn.).]

Sibthorp included in his list a bird under this designation, but makes no mention of it in his diary. As *Fringilla linaria* Linn., it is duly chronicled by Unger and Kotschy,

and without remark by Müller, who inserts it only on Unger and Kotschy's authority. Sibthorp's name is itself, however, not very clear, as it might refer to the Mealy or Lesser Redpoll. It is not, in any case, likely that either bird would occur in Cyprus, and I am inclined to assume that the Linnet—*Linaria linota* (Gmel.)—was the species really intended by Sibthorp. I bracket the name of this bird as I do not think that it has, at present, any claim to be recorded among the Cypriote avifauna.

495. *LOXIA CURVIROSTRA* Linn.

Loxia guillemardi Madarász.

The Crossbill was probably discovered in Cyprus by Sibthorp, who states in his journal (19th of April, 1787) that on the northern range near the Convent of Antiphoniti, he shot two species of *Loxia* . . . one which he proposed to call *L. varia* and the other *L. cinerea*. Perhaps his two supposed species were the male and female Crossbill, and if so, the record is peculiarly interesting as, at the present time, the Crossbill is confined to the southern range. Sibthorp did not include these two species in his formal list, and accordingly they do not appear in that of Unger and Kotschy. No more is heard of a Crossbill until Guillemard's arrival, and although on his first visit he was informed that such a bird existed it was not until his second visit that he discovered—or rediscovered—the species on the highest parts of Troödos in April 1888, when he obtained a good series of old and young and found it in some abundance. He remarked on the very dark colour of their plumage, and Lord Lilford called attention to the stoutness of their bills. It was reserved for Madarász, from examples sent to him by Glaszner, to separate the Cypriote form as distinct.

In Cyprus the Crossbill is confined to the highest coniferous forest-areas of the Troödos Range, and personally I have never seen it elsewhere than in the more or less immediate neighbourhood of the summer station on the saddle of the topmost divide. It is fairly common, but shifts about in small or sometimes biggish flocks and, unless one knows its

note, may easily escape observation. I used to see it almost daily from the beginning of July to the beginning of October 1908, *i. e.* during the whole time I was in the hills, and occasionally shot a specimen. Horsbrugh found it fairly common in early June and obtained a nice series of old and young close to the Olympus Hotel not far from the summit; he found that they fed on small chrysalides and the seeds of the coniferous trees. They must, as a rule, breed very early, probably in March, at a time when their haunts are almost impassable to anyone on account of the snow, though it is worthy of remark that a *very* juvenile specimen in nesting plumage which had been shot on September the 17th was sent to Madarász. It is perhaps as well that by a statute passed in Cyprus this year (1909) this bird and its eggs will be protected—except under special permit from the High Commissioner granted for scientific purposes—in future at all seasons of the year. “Crossbill and bacon,” a favourite breakfast dish, I regret to say, with one Philistine met with by Horsbrugh will, I trust, soon be, so far as the former portion is concerned, legally an unobtainable delicacy.

The bill of the old Crossbills, particularly of the males, is extraordinarily powerful and overlapping; in the juvenile specimens taken in early June it had not, in some cases, commenced to cross. Madarász regards the Cyprian bird as very closely allied to the North European subspecies *Loxia pityopsittacus*.

500. EMBERIZA MILIARIA Linn.

The Corn-Bunting is a resident, though I have no doubt that its numbers are augmented largely by summer visitors. It was noticed by Sibthorp, and Lord Lilford found it “tediously common” in April and May; Müller mentions several clutches of eggs taken from May the 6th to June the 4th. Guillemard found it generally distributed but confined to the lower altitudes; Glaszner sent to Madarász a good many specimens taken in the Larnaca district in January, March, April, November, and December.

In Cyprus the Corn-Bunting commences to sing at the end

of February, and from that time until the early autumn is very conspicuous. We took eggs in May and specimens from February to June. It keeps to the cultivated lands and we did not notice it in the forest heights.

503. *EMBERIZA MELANOCEPHALA* Scop.

There is little doubt that Sibthorp refers to the Black-headed Bunting when he mentions having been greatly struck by a beautiful *Fringilla*, "perhaps," he says, "the *F. flaveola* of Linnæus." He gives the Greek name "*οκάρθαλις*" by which the bird is still well-known in Cyprus. Sibthorp met with it at the end of April. As "*F. flaveola* Linn.?" it, of course, appears in Unger and Kotschy's list, but they add also *Emberiza melanocephala*, a name which was not used by Sibthorp. Lord Lilford found it in great abundance near Trikomo and on the south coast of the Karpas and drew attention to the preponderance in number of the males. Müller mentions many specimens and two clutches of eggs taken in May. Guille-mard found a few on Troödos, but considered its true home to be on the northern coast, and he also observed that the males were much in numerical superiority. Glaszner sent many to Madarász taken on the southern range in May and June, a melanistic specimen being amongst them. Mr. Baxendale noted its arrival at Papho on the 22nd of April; Horsbrough found it in plenty and took several nests in various localities in the following month (1909).

It is a common summer visitor, arriving at the end of April or beginning of May and breeding freely in the hills very shortly after its arrival. It leaves early, and I do not recollect any being seen later than the end of August. Its nest is not hard to find and we took clutches of six eggs; but five seem to be the usual complement.

515. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA* Linn.

The Ortolan has long been popularly supposed to be common in Cyprus and one of, if not the ordinary, species which are caught in large numbers and sold as "beccaficoes."

This is quite a mistake, though it is not difficult to trace how the error arose. Perhaps the most common reference by writers about Cyprus from the 16th century onwards is to the "Vine-birds" and their delectable qualities on the table, and they are described in many different ways. Locke (1553) says "they are much like unto a Wagtaile in fethers and making." Cotovicus (1598) writes "they are not unlike the Ortolans of Italy." Mariti (1760-7), who was not a naturalist but a very careful observer, and probably recognised that the birds caught were not always identical, speaks of "the beccafico *and* the Ortolan . . . sold indiscriminately." Sibthorp, who was not in the Island at the time of their capture, but wrote from hearsay and no doubt with knowledge of the trade in real Ortolans in the south of Europe, declares that "immense flights of Ortolans appear about the time of the vintage; these are taken in great quantities, preserved in vinegar and exported as an object of commerce." The bird was included in Sibthorp's list and duly appeared in those of Unger and Kotschy and of Müller. Lord Lilford was assured that the Garden Warbler was the species taken but could find out nothing about the matter during his stay, whilst neither he nor his collectors ever met with the Ortolan. Lord Lilford was, rightly, disposed to think that the Blackcap was "the principal victim."

Glaszner seems to have been the first to clear up this confusion, and in writing to Madarász he corrects an account contained in a German work on Birds (*Naturgeschichte der deutschen Vögel*, C. G. Friderlich) concerning the alleged traffic in Ortolans in Cyprus, by pointing out that the Blackcap is the chief species taken.

The only authentic record of the Ortolan in Cyprus of which I am aware is that of a single specimen captured by Glaszner at Larnaca on April 13th, 1909, and sent to Madarász. [*Vide also Sylvia atricapilla*, Ibis, 1909, p. 596.]

517. EMBERIZA CÆSIA Cretzschm.

Cretzschmar's Bunting is a very common summer visitor, arriving in March and leaving towards the beginning of

October. Lord Lilford found it exceedingly abundant; Müller mentions ten specimens and nine clutches of eggs taken between April the 21st and June the 4th; Guillemard calls it "ubiquitous"; Glaszner sent Madarász a series taken in March, April, September and October. Mr. Baxendale noted its arrival at Papho in the third week in March (1909), and Horsbrugh and I found it in plenty and obtained specimens in various localities from the 21st of that month until our departure from the island in June. Mr. Baxendale came across it nesting at the end of May (1909) near Papho on the foothills of the Troödos mountains, a usual locality in which to find it.

533. *EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS* Linn.

Guillemard shot a female Reed Bunting on the 13th of February, 1888, near Famagusta. This is the only record of which I am aware. It would be only a winter visitor.

535. Subsp. *EMBERIZA PYRRHULOIDES* Pall.

The form of *Emberiza schæniclus* known as the Large-billed Reed-Bunting owes its inclusion in the Cyprus list to Müller, who records, amongst the specimens sent to Schlüter, a juvenile male, taken on November the 13th. As Madarász points out, this bird, assuming the record to be substantially correct, is more likely to have belonged to the form *E. schæniclus palustris* found in Spain, Italy, and elsewhere, than to the subspecies named above.

549. *MELANOCORYPHA CALANDRA* (Linn.).

The Calandra Lark was observed by Sibthorp, who thought that it was probably a resident. Lord Lilford found it very common in the open country, and states that it breeds and is no doubt a permanent resident in the Island. Guillemard, who noticed a few in cages for sale in February, found a nest at Lefkoniko (Karpas district) with eggs—hard-set—at the end of April. Glaszner sent a few specimens to Madarász taken in March, April, and May. From my own observation I should say that in Cyprus it is not a very common breeding species, but is in the main a winter

visitor. It is extremely plentiful at that season and is sold in strings for food. It is certainly the commonest cage-bird in the bazaars, and its song, though shrill, is not unpleasant. I have seen dozens towards the end of March in full song on the plains, and have obtained the bird as late as mid-April. I think that the majority leave in April and return in or about October.

555. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS* Linn.

Lord Lilford recorded the Skylark as exceedingly abundant in April and May, and regarded it as very common. Guillemard obtained it in February and March 1887 and 1888, and Glaszner sent a good many to Madarász taken in various localities in February, October, and November. I have only noticed it near Nicosia in March, and then not in any numbers, but I presume that it is a winter visitor, its numbers being augmented by the birds of passage in spring and autumn.

557. *ALAUDA ARBOREA* Linn.

Lord Lilford met with the Woodlark more than once in April in the Karpas; Pearse obtained specimens in November; Guillemard two near Limassol on January the 3rd and one on Troödos on April the 18th, 1888. Glaszner sent five taken near Larnaca and on Troödos to Madarász in February, May, September, and December. Horsbrugh found it fairly common on Troödos in the first week of June 1909 and obtained examples. I should think that this species is partially a spring and autumn migrant and partially a winter visitor; possibly, also, some may nest in the mountains.

558. *CORYDUS CRISTATUS* (Linn.).

Alauda cristata Linn. B. O. U. List, p. 171.

The Crested Lark is perhaps numerically the most common bird in Cyprus, sharing this distinction with the Goldfinch. It is a resident, but of course does not frequent the mountainous parts of the Island. It appears, according to my observations, to be particularly noticeable at the periods of

migration, and I am inclined to think that its numbers are swollen in winter by migrants from the north. It has been mentioned by nearly every former writer, including Sibthorp. It nests in Cyprus in April and May, and I have notes of clutches of eggs taken from the 16th of the former to the 15th of the latter month, but I have also found them highly incubated as early as May the 4th. Madarász states that the specimens sent to him from Cyprus are a little paler in colour but have a deeper rufous tinge than mid-European examples, and are not nearly so dark as the form which occurs in the Balkans.

560. *CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA* (Leisl.).

The Short-toed Lark appears to have been first recognised in Cyprus by Lord Lilford, who found it not very abundant and apparently local on the plains of Salamis in April 1875; he obtained specimens, but did not observe it in any other part of the island. Neither Pearse nor Guillemard seems to have come across it, nor, so far as I am aware, has Glaszner sent any specimens to Madarász. However, I found a male amongst Glaszner's skins taken on the 3rd of March, 1906, at Astromeriti, not far from Morphou, and Horsbrugh obtained two near Papho in the middle of May, one of which was a remarkably pale specimen. I have hardly enough material to generalise upon the status of this bird in the island, and I can only suppose that it is partially a summer visitor, many, however, merely passing through on the spring and autumn migrations.

567. *STURNUS VULGARIS* Linn.

During the last twenty years *Sturnus vulgaris* has been so subdivided that nowadays the observations of older writers may not represent what would be regarded as modern accuracy. In dealing with the Starlings I therefore follow what has been written by Madarász. Large flocks of Starlings frequent the marshes and the plains of the island during the winter months. They arrive towards the middle of October, but, as a rule, are not noticed in any considerable

numbers until November, when they are frequently observed feeding along with the Rooks and Jackdaws close to the towns. They leave again for the north not later than the end of March. No doubt the composition of these flocks is mixed, and comprises examples of at any rate the succeeding three forms dealt with, but until a larger series than I have as yet been able to handle has been examined, I am only capable of giving the results of what, so far as I know, has been already ascertained. With regard to *Sturnus vulgaris*, it is not very clear whether any of the Starlings actually obtained by Pearse and Guillemard belonged to this species, but the latter writes that he shot one near Salamis, presumably in early March of 1888, although he seems to have met with flocks of Starlings, some of which turned out to belong to the next species, in several different localities. None of the Starlings sent by Glaszner to Madarász were referable to *S. vulgaris*, and the few which I have had in the flesh were, so far as I could judge, obviously either *S. purpurascens* or *S. poltaratzkyi*. Lord Lilford, however, states, from Pearse's and Guillemard's specimens, that the Common Starling is a winter visitor, and I have little doubt that he is correct.

The Starlings are eagerly pursued by the local gunners, and are considered excellent for the table.

568. STURNUS PURPURASCENS Gould.

The Purple-winged Starling composes at any rate part of the winter flights of Starlings which visit the island. Guillemard obtained a number of examples at the end of February at Kouklia Marsh which he regarded as belonging to this form, and one of which at any rate was subsequently identified by Sharpe. Glaszner sent three specimens to Madarász which had been taken near Larnaca, and I received in November 1908 four examples from the neighbourhood of Nicosia.

STURNUS PORPHYRONOTUS Sharpe.

Madarász, who recognises this form as distinct, received four specimens from Glaszner, taken near Larnaca in January, February, and March. I am not at all sure that I should be able to distinguish it from *S. purpurascens*.

569. Subsp. STURNUS POLTARATZSKYI Finsch.

Pearse obtained in October 1878 some specimens of Poltaratzsky's Starling which were identified by Seebohm, and Guillemard shot at least two on his 1888 visit. Glaszner sent Madarász nine specimens, taken near Larnaca in January, February, and November. I obtained one old male, which I should think is typical of this form, at Morphou in December 1908. I believe that Glaszner has sent a considerable number of locally obtained Starlings to various European naturalists, but I have not been able to ascertain that any results have as yet been published concerning them.

572. PASTOR ROSEUS (Linn.).

The locust was for centuries almost an annual scourge in Cyprus, and the wailings of writers over its destructiveness are lamentable. All sorts of remedies seem to have been tried, but the most successful, according to the 16th and 17th century writers, was a miraculous fountain of water, situated in Syria or Persia, a basin of which, being conveyed to the island, with certain solemn rites, was followed by large flocks of "red and black birds, which, flying together like Starlings, with their song and flight destroyed the locusts." There are other interesting reasons given for the appearance of these useful assistants, but it can hardly be doubted that this account, published in 1596, refers to the Rose-coloured Pastor. The extremely capricious character of the visits of this species is shown by the infrequency with which it has been recorded. It was, however, one of Unger and Kotschy's additions to Sibthorp's list; but, although Lord Lilford was informed that it was very well known in Cyprus and was assured that it sometimes bred in the island, neither he, Pearse, Guillemard, nor Glaszner apparently succeeded in coming across it. Indeed, the only definite record with which I was until lately acquainted was that of a single juvenile specimen mentioned by Müller as having been taken during the breeding-season, presumably in 1877 or 1878. Mr. Baxendale and Horsbrugh were lucky enough to meet with this species in May 1909, when they observed

eight on the 20th and twelve on the 22nd of that month, near Papho, and from the latter flock Mr. Baxendale obtained a fine female. Although locusts have been practically exterminated during the British occupation of the island, precautionary measures are annually taken to prevent their re-establishment, by payments, during the early summer months, on a liberal scale, for all young locusts brought in by the peasants, who collect them in nets whilst they are in what we should call in South Africa the "voetganger" stage, and it is curious to notice that one of the flocks of the birds seen this year were haunting a locality where the destruction of these locusts was being proceeded with on a large scale. Although I showed the specimen obtained to many old Cypriote sportsmen, none of them had ever seen the bird before.

585. *GARRULUS GLANDARIUS* (Linn.).

Garrulus glaszneri Madarász.

Sibthorp discovered the Jay on Troodos "by its hoarse screams—hopping about the branches of the *Pinus pinea*" on April 30th, 1787. It was re-discovered by Guillemard in the same range in 1887, and the two specimens which he then obtained, together with others which he brought back on his second visit, were thought to present some slight peculiarities of plumage, and were submitted by Lord Lilford to Seebohm. Seebohm stated of them, "The Cyprian Jay is one of the local races of the Stripe-headed Jay which ranges from Britain to Japan. It is scarcely distinguishable from the East-Russian variety *G. severzowii* Bogdanow, and like that race is one of the intermediate forms between *G. brandti* Eversm. and *G. glandarius*."

Glaszner sent a good series to Madarász, who definitely separated the bird in 1902 under the name given above. Glaszner's Jay is really a fairly common resident in Cyprus, but is restricted to the forests of the southern range, and even there mainly to elevations above 3000 feet. I found it plentiful in 1907 and 1908 all the summer in the area round the hill-station on Troödos. Horsbrugh obtained

numerous specimens in his spring journey through the same mountains in 1909, and on June 1st discovered a nest ready for eggs. On the 8th June, 1909, Mr. Nicolls took a fresh clutch of five eggs, which he sent to me. I do not think that the eggs have been described before; but I know Glaszner has obtained them, as he shewed me some in 1907. They are exactly similar to those of *G. glandarius*, but, as in the case of the eggs of some other Cypriote birds, are distinctly small, averaging only $1.18 \times .85$ inch. In its habits the Cypriote Jay does not differ from its English congener; but it has, in my opinion, a much weaker cry. It is, I am sorry to say, much pursued by the younger Cypriote gunners, and is habitually eaten.

596. *PICA RUSTICA* (Scop.).

The Magpie is a common resident, but does not frequent the very highest portions of the southern mountains. It breeds in Cyprus during April and May, and I have notes of nests with clutches of not less than five eggs from April the 15th to May the 20th.

The Magpie appears to be one of the hosts of the Great Spotted Cuckoo (*vide infra*, p. 31). In size the Magpies' eggs found in the island vary considerably, but on average are fairly normal; the mean of twenty-three being $1.32 \times .93$ inch. Sir Charles Tyser, the present Chief Justice, saw seventeen Magpies together, near Larnaca, on November the 11th, 1908.

Lord Lilford mentions that some of his specimens showed a good deal of brown on the primaries and rectrices. I have not yet observed this in the few specimens Horsbrugh and I took the trouble to obtain.

599. *CORVUS MONEDULA* Linn.

The Jackdaw is a very common resident, and is generally distributed. In habits it does not appear to differ from the bird found in England. It nests freely in the old houses and ruins in the towns, and on the cliffs and high rocks near the sea and in the hills. It commences repairing its nests in early March, and about mid-April I have had a good

many eggs in all stages of incubation: they appear typical in colouring but are rather small, the average of a dozen being $1\cdot34 \times \cdot98$ inch.

Whatever may be the status of the form *C. collaris* Drummond, there is no doubt that in very many Cypriote specimens the nuchal collar is extremely white; but this is by no means invariably the case, and, so far as I can judge, it is partially a sign of age; but, in any case, one can always see birds with almost every grade of colour.

602. CORVUS CORNIX Linn.

Corone pallescens Madarász.

The Grey or Hooded Crow is a very common resident, and, although I do not remember to have seen it close to the Troödos encampment (from which it is probably kept away by the multitude of Ravens), it is, elsewhere, a nuisance. Though a useful scavenger, it is very destructive to the young of poultry, game, and wild birds, and I have seen two kill a nearly full-grown tame pigeon. Horsbrugh saw a pair knock over a Magpie and rob it of a piece of meat. It is very abundant in the vicinity of the towns; it commences to nest at the end of March, and its behaviour is interesting at that period. Being compelled to build in trees, which are mostly easily accessible and close to dwelling-houses, it constructs a small well-concealed nest—usually at the top of a eucalyptus or fir—with the utmost secrecy, and though at other times an abominably noisy bird, it scarcely ever utters a note when near its breeding-place.

Lord Lilford observed that the mantles of the Cypriote Hooded Crow were somewhat lighter in colour than in typical British specimens, and Madarász, mainly on this difference, has separated the island bird under the name *C. pallescens*. From the many hundreds I have seen and perhaps twenty which I have handled, I should say, without hesitation, that the light parts of the plumage are vastly whiter than in British specimens. In addition to this, the local bird seems more compact and considerably smaller, and, in all which I have closely examined, the junction line between the white

and black on the breast seems cut very sharply. We took many eggs from the 4th of April up to the 18th of May, finding them in all stages of incubation during that period; the usual complement is five, but we obtained more than one clutch of six. We noticed at once a peculiarity observed by Müller, that all the eggs are at the lowest edge of the range of size, the average of fifteen specimens being only 1.57×1.1 inch. Otherwise the eggs are typical, but we took four in a clutch of six which were pale blue, without any markings. I have not yet found this species, as one would perhaps expect, acting as host to the Great Spotted Cuckoo.

It should perhaps be mentioned that Guillemard writes, on his first visit, of "*Carrion Crows*," but the expression was no doubt not used, as has been erroneously thought, to refer to *Corvus corone* Linn., the *Black* or "*Carrion*" Crow, so-called in England, as this bird is not found in Cyprus.

Madarász tentatively places the Cypriote bird between *C. sharpii* Oates and *C. capellanus* Selater.

604. *CORVUS CORAX* Linn.

The Raven is a common resident, and generally distributed throughout the island. During the summer months a great many congregate near the camp on Troödos, attracted no doubt by the slaughter house and refuse, and there I have frequently counted over fifty in the air together. They are always ready to play with or mob any Eagle, large Hawk, or even Vulture which may come their way, and their agility on the wing is surprising. They nest early, and Horsbrugh and I took a slightly incubated clutch of six eggs on the 13th of March, 1909, near Nicosia; they are typical in colour but distinctly small, the average being 1.79×1.31 inch. The female, which I shot from the nest, was also rather small, but otherwise in no way remarkable; her crop was full of coleoptera. Lord Lilford remarks that his specimens from Cyprus varied considerably, *inter se*, in dimensions, were very stout-billed, and had all some umber-brown feathers in the wings, shewing some affinity to *C. umbrinus* Sundevall and *C. tingitanus* Irby (*C. leptonyx* Peale).

Madarász, who had a female from Glaszner, noted that the wings were somewhat shorter on the apical side than in the typical mid-European form.

One is accustomed to find the Raven breeding in Great Britain in very inaccessible places, but in Cyprus it often nests in suitable crevices in the little cliffs which form the last part of the ascent of the "Tafel-kop" hills, so common a feature of parts of the island landscape. In the plains in winter Ravens often look for food in the fields in company with Hooded Crows, Rooks, and Jackdaws.

608. *CORVUS FRUGILEGUS* Linn.

The Rook is a common winter visitor, although it does not seem to have been noticed in any abundance by previous writers. Pearse sent to Lord Lilford one specimen only, which was taken in November, and Guillemard in his articles mentions it only once and then states that "it did not appear to be common, as, indeed, might be expected." Madarász does not seem to have received it from Glaszner. In the neighbourhood of Nicosia the Rook arrives in mid-November and leaves about mid-March. It may be seen in hundreds in company with Jackdaws and Hooded Crows searching for food on the cultivated lands, and it roosts at night in the tall eucalyptus and other trees usually found in the immediate vicinity of the towns and villages. The Rook never, so far as I know, nests in the island, my earliest note of its arrival being November the 18th and my latest of its stay March the 20th.

610. *CYPSELUS APUS* (Linn.).

The Swift is an exceedingly common summer visitor. My first note of its arrival is on February 23rd, 1909, when Mr. Baxendale observed a single bird at Papho: I noticed several on March 3rd of the same year at Nicosia, but the main body does not arrive until about the second week in March. The wide-eaved houses, the ruins, and the old-world towns of the island make an ideal home for this bird. It breeds all over the island, even in the hotel near the summit of Troödos. Horsbrugh took a good many clutches slightly incubated at Kyrenia on April 24th, 1909, and it is, perhaps, worthy

of notice that six out of seven nests contained three eggs each. The nests were quite bulky structures made of seawrack, tow, feathers, string, straw, rag, twigs, wool, and dried grass, all these materials being agglutinated together; the dimensions measuring quite nine by six inches: they were placed between the deep undercut supporting arms of a balcony and the under parts of the supported projecting surfaces.

On June 6th, 1909, Horsbrugh found young in nests on the southern range.

The Swift leaves the island at the beginning of September, or even at the end of August, and at the Troödos hill-station I have never seen it after the end of July.

611. Subsp. *CYPSELUS PEKINENSIS* Swinhoe.

Glaszner appears to have sent to Madarász only eight Swifts, two belonging to the following species and the remaining six all resembling *C. pekinensis*. These six were obtained at Larnaca in March, April, and May. Madarász, on these grounds, omits *C. apus* from the Cypriote list.

I can only say that the few specimens of Swifts which I have handled in Cyprus appear to me not to differ materially from *C. apus*, though it is evident from Madarász that *C. pekinensis*, or a form very similar, must frequently occur in the island.

612. *CYPSELUS MURINUS* Brehm.

The Pallid Swift has seldom been recorded from Cyprus, but though, as Lord Lillford suggests, it is probably local in its distribution in the island, I have no doubt that its existence would be overlooked by almost every resident. Guillemard obtained specimens at Kykko Monastery late in May 1887, where it was doubtless breeding, and Glaszner sent Madarász a pair taken at Larnaca on March 24th, 1901, and March 29th, 1902, respectively.

None of our party has been as yet able to identify the species with certainty nor have we obtained any specimens.

616. *CYPSELUS MELBA* (Linn.).

The Alpine or White-bellied Swift was—as was *C. apus*—recognised by Sibthorp as a summer visitor to Cyprus.

It was observed by Lord Lilford on several occasions during his visit “high in the air” near the sea: Müller mentions an adult female taken in spring: Guillemard found a few examples at Lefconiko at the end of April 1887, and recorded it as early as February 26th at Kouklia, in 1888, while at the end of March in the same year he met with it nesting in inaccessible places near the ruins of Kantara Castle.

It does not seem to have been obtained by Glaszner.

This species is a fairly common spring and autumn visitor to the island and probably nests annually in a few suitable places. My first note of its appearance is on March the 29th, 1908, when it was observed at Papho by Mr. Baxendale; from the 30th of March to the 28th of May, 1909, Mr. Baxendale and Horsbrugh met with it more or less frequently in various parts of the island and obtained a considerable number of specimens. I have never seen it at Nicosia nor did any of us find it breeding. It was particularly common near the Acheritou and Kouklia reservoirs.

I have no definite autumn records of its appearance on migration or of the leaving of those which breed, but I presume its general departure must take place about the beginning of September.

618. *CAPRIMULGUS EUROPEUS* Linn.

The Nightjar is a regular and not uncommon visitor on the spring and autumn migrations, and although I am not aware that it has yet been discovered nesting in the island, I should think it quite probable that a few individuals do so. The species was recognised by Sibthorp, and Lord Lilford found it in great numbers close to the sea in the Karpas District in the last week of April 1875; these had evidently just arrived, as many declined to move until actually touched. He also met with a few elsewhere in the island, but was informed by the inhabitants that not only did the Nightjar not breed in Cyprus, but that it did not lay eggs at all, being

“inspired with a fruitless passion for the Cuckoo.” It does not seem to be mentioned in Guillemard’s ‘Ibis’ papers, but apparently he obtained specimens. Glaszner sent one, taken on the 19th of August, 1901, to Madarász, which the latter describes as being remarkably pale in colour, and approaching the form *C. unwini* Hume; he was in some doubt whether to record it under this name or that of *C. meridionalis* Hart. Glaszner shewed me another female taken by him on the 14th of September 1906. Mr. Barrett, the Superintendent of the Government Farm at Athalassa, near Nicosia—to whom Horsbrugh and I are much indebted for his constant assistance—brought me a live female on the 16th of October, 1908, and informed me that there were several to be then observed on his farm. We first noticed them in 1909 on the 29th of March, when Horsbrugh saw several at Acheritou Reservoir; at Athalassa I shot a male on the 3rd of May, and Horsbrugh saw others in the Papho district, and on the Troödos foot-hills up to the 13th of that month. The last that I observed was just outside my garden in Nicosia on the 13th of May, on the evening of which I also heard its note.

Picus sp. inc.

Unger and Kotschy added to Sibthorp’s list “*Picus* sp. *κραυγος*”! but no one has since met with any species of Woodpecker in the island, and it is difficult to understand to what they refer. Possibly they may have heard of the presence of a tree-climbing bird—the local Tree-creeper—which they thought was probably of this genus. *Dendrocopus syriacus* (Hempr. & Ehr.) would be perhaps more likely to occur in Cyprus than any other Woodpecker.

656. *LYNX TORQUILLA* (Linn.).

Lord Lilford recognised the cry of the Wryneck more than once near Limassol in May 1875, but the only specimen which he or his collectors obtained was a female shot by Guillemard near Limassol on March 24th, 1887, although it is not mentioned at all in the latter’s articles in this Journal, and on that account, no doubt, Lord Lilford expressed the opinion that the species was somewhat rare in

the island. Glaszner, however, sent Madarász six examples obtained in April, August, and September. During the spring of 1909 Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I came across the Wryneck in the plains not at all uncommonly, and obtained a number of specimens between the 18th of March and the 13th of April. I observe from my note-book that we shot eight and saw in all about twenty. The Wryneck is evidently a visitor on spring and autumn migration; I have no knowledge of its breeding in the island, but I should think it quite likely that a few may both nest and winter there.

657. *ALCEDO ISPIDA* Linn.

The Kingfisher is not a very common bird in Cyprus, probably because there are not many places suitable for its necessities at all seasons of the year. Although I have no definite evidence of its nest being taken in the island, I am inclined to think that it is probably a resident in a few suitable localities, but that its numbers are slightly increased by migrants in spring and autumn, some of which remain throughout the winter. It was first noticed by Lord Lilford, who, however, only saw one example in the inner harbour at Famagusta in April. Guillemard observed it in March on the sea-coast near Limassol in 1887, and obtained a specimen at Famagusta in February and another at Larnaca in April on his second visit. Glaszner sent Madarász three examples, collected near the last-mentioned place in April, September, and November.

The bird is well known to the English residents, and Mr. G. F. Wilson has seen several in August and September, both on the river near Nicosia and at Famagusta Harbour. I first saw it on the 19th of September, 1908, on a little perpetual stream near Papho, and in March and April, 1909, Horsbrugh saw a few and obtained some specimens at the Acheritou and Kouklia reservoirs. I am also informed that it has been frequently noticed on the sea-coast at Kyrenia.

658. *CERYLE RUDIS* (Linn.).

The Pied Kingfisher was included by Lord Lilford in his

list upon the accurate account of its presence in the island, given to Guillemard by Mr. C. S. Cade, the present Commissioner of Nicosia, who had been well acquainted with the species on the West Coast of Africa, and who informs me that he met with it on the Kyrenia Coast when there stationed. Although neither Lord Lilford nor his collectors obtained any specimens, the correctness of Mr. Cade's statement is substantiated by the fact of the capture by Glaszner of a female at Larnaca on November 16th, 1902, which was despatched by him to Madarász. Glaszner also kindly lent me a male obtained by him on the 3rd of February, 1906, at the same place. None of us have yet met with it in the island, and I think it must be very rare and probably only a casual visitor from the neighbouring mainland.

661. *HALCYON SMYRNENSIS* (Linn.).

Very credible accounts were given to Lord Lilford and to Guillemard of the occurrence of the Smyrna Kingfisher in Cyprus, but the authority for these statements is not very clearly indicated, and, so far as I am aware, no specimen has as yet been obtained locally. However, Guillemard declared that he had no doubt whatever that the species occurred in Cyprus, and hence probably the island is mentioned as one of the localities in which the bird is to be found in Dresser's 'Manual of Palearctic Birds' (p. 461). It has not been heard of or noticed by any of us.

663. *CORACIAS GARRULUS* Linn.

The Roller is common in Cyprus on its spring and autumn migrations, and should perhaps really be called a summer visitor, as a number always stay to breed in the island. It was first noticed by Sibthorp on April the 12th (1787). Müller refers to ten adult specimens and eight clutches of eggs taken between April 22nd and June 4th. Lord Lilford noticed it very commonly during his visit, and states that "it breeds abundantly in Cyprus in soft banks of marl and sand." Guillemard found it nesting in early June of 1887, "within a day or two of hatching a second brood," in the Papho district, and Miss Bate found "numbers" of "nests"

in holes in cliffs and in the walls of houses in 1901 and 1902. Glaszner sent numerous specimens to Madarász taken in April, May, June, and September. Although Guillemard records its earliest vernal appearance on April the 3rd, 1888, I should say that that is an unusually early date.

According to our observations the Roller does not as a rule arrive until the middle of April; the migration continues for about a month, and, at any rate, by the end of May those birds which have not settled down to nest have moved north; the return migration takes place in September and early October. Our first date of arrival is April the 17th, and our last of departure October the 17th. It is most frequently noticed in mid-May and early October; and although Horsburgh met with it on the Troödos foot-hills it is not, I think, found on the higher parts of the mountains. It is eaten by many local people.

666. *MEROPS APIASTER* Linn.

The Bee-eater in its habits resembles the Roller, but instead of being merely common is extremely abundant; it arrives in large numbers during April and May; the bulk leave towards the end of May, but a certain number remain to nest. The return migration takes place in September, big flocks collecting at the end of that month, and soon disappearing. Our first date of its arrival is April the 1st, but it is not abundant until ten days later; our last note of it in autumn is October the 4th in the Famagusta district.

The bird was recognised by Sibthorp; Müller mentions handling 29 adult and 57 juvenile specimens! Lord Lilford, who found it exceedingly common, states that it nests, but was assured—erroneously it may be added—that after nesting it left the island altogether before the middle of July; Guillemard found it breeding in company with the Roller in the Papho district at the beginning of June 1887. Miss Bate pointed out the incorrect nature of Lord Lilford's information as to its departure in mid-July. Glaszner sent Madarász a number of specimens taken in June and September.

To the above there is little to be added. From mid-April till the end of September, whether I was in the plains or on Troödos, hardly a day passed without my seeing or hearing these birds—often in some numbers—although on the higher parts of the mountains they do not seem to alight. In early September their numbers visibly increased, and from the 15th to the 25th the country on the south coast from Limassol to Papho through which I was travelling on Assizes (1908) was swarming with large and small flocks. In the bazaars were cages crammed with live birds for sale—masses of vivid blue and green terror—which, poor things, had been caught with birdlime in the neighbourhood, and were destined for the pot; skeins of dead festooned the shops or were hawked about on strings by picturesque street arabs; the sky resounded with their unmistakeable notes, and the graceful flight of the companies was noticeable on every side. Our caterer insisted on serving some for dinner, but we found them sweet to the taste and not particularly palatable. They were all just on the point of their departure for Africa, and on October the 1st not one remained. Of the vast numbers then seen I am quite satisfied that not five in a hundred could have been bred in the island.

669. *UPUPA EPOS* Linn.

The Hoopoe is another common spring and autumn visitor, and a number of pairs no doubt annually remain to nest in cool and suitable places on the mountains. It arrives in mid-March, Guillemard recording it as early as the 10th, our first note being on the 15th. It leaves in September, our last record being September 20th, 1908.

It was included in Sibthorp's list, and Müller mentions three examples, one of which was obtained during the breeding season. Though met with not infrequently in the spring by Lord Lilford and Guillemard, neither of them regarded it as abundant. Glaszner sent Madarász a few specimens taken in March and September.

From mid-March to mid-April 1909 Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found the Hoopoe in considerable numbers

in the plains, but though we continued to meet an occasional specimen until the first week in May, it was from the mountains that most of our records during that month came, while Horsbrugh and Mr. Nicolls met with it there not uncommonly in June. From July the 1st, 1908, when I arrived at the hill-station, until about mid-September, I frequently noticed the Hoopoe, and in August I had the pleasure of seeing an old pair and three young birds in close proximity to our mountain cottage (5500 ft.). They were very tame, and the old birds sometimes came within a few yards of the house.

670. *CUCULUS CANORUS* Linn.

The Cuckoo is a common spring and autumn visitor, and was known to Sibthorp, who frequently heard it. Lord Lilford found it exceedingly common; Guillemard records having first heard it on April the 13th, and Glaszner sent Madarász a couple collected in the latter half of that month.

According to our observations the Cuckoo arrives at the beginning of April (our earliest date being the 2nd—*Horsbrugh*). From that date till the first week in May we constantly saw and heard it, but Horsbrugh noticed it at Morphou as late as June 6th (1909), and Mr. Baxendale at Papho in mid-July. Probably, therefore, a few individuals deposit their eggs with suitable hosts in the hills, but up to the present I have never heard or seen a specimen during my two summer visits to the mountains, and records of the return migration appear to be entirely lacking; presumably it should take place at the end of August or beginning of September.

Its note in Cyprus seems rather feeble.

674. *COCCYSTES GLANDARIUS* (Linn.)

Much to Lord Lilford's surprise he did not meet with the Great Spotted Cuckoo in Cyprus, but Pearse sent him a single specimen. Müller refers to two female adults and five eggs from five clutches of eggs of the Magpie taken between April 15th and May 20th. Guillemard brought

home one shot near Famagusta on March 19th, 1888, and later—in 1889—received another (without data) from Captain, now Sir, Arthur Young, then Commissioner at that place, probably taken in the autumn of the preceding year.

Miss Bate, however, found this Cuckoo not uncommon in the spring of 1902, particularly on the slopes of the northern range, and Glaszner sent seven to Madarász taken in the Larnaca neighbourhood in March, April, May, and August. Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I met with the Great Spotted Cuckoo in 1909 from March the 9th until April the 2nd, shooting or seeing over a dozen. Mr. G. Wilson saw two near Nicosia as late as the 19th of April in the same year, and Mr. Nicolls has once seen it on the summit of Troödos. It certainly seems to be in the main confined to the wooded portions of the plains and foot-hills. Although some individuals may be true summer visitors and avail themselves of the friendly nests of the abundant Hooded Crows and Magpies, my own opinion is that the species is a rather rare visitor on spring and autumn migration, the return passage taking place at the end of August.

Amongst the numerous eggs of Hooded Crows and Magpies which I have handled I have never seen an egg which belonged to this bird. Horsbrugh found that their crops contained mainly hairy larvæ.

688. *ASIO OTUS* (Linn.).

The Long-eared Owl would appear to be a rare winter visitor. Pearse sent a male to Lord Lilford, taken on November the 8th, 1878, at Levka near Morphou, and Glaszner forwarded to Madarász a female shot in November, 1902, and a male in January, 1903, the latter being remarkably pale in colour.

I know of no other records.

689. *ASIO ACCIPITRINUS* (Pall.).

Asio brachyotus B. O. U. List, p. 86.

The Short-eared Owl is a winter visitor, though no doubt many examples are merely birds of passage. Lord Lilford met with it frequently in the plains near Famagusta and

Limassol and was assured that the species bred in the island, but the specimens he obtained (in April, 1875) shewed no symptom of doing so. It was also procured by Pearse and Guillemard. Glaszner sent Madarász specimens, taken in September, October, November and January, near Larnaca.

691. *SCOPS GIU* (Scopoli).

The European Scops-Owl is not quite identical with the local form which is so familiar to residents in Cyprus. Madarász, who has now separated the latter as *Scops cyprius*, has pointed out, as a remarkable fact, that the European form occurs, though apparently rarely, as a winter visitor to the island, Glaszner having sent him six specimens of it taken near Larnaca in March, September, and October.

692. *SCOPS CYPRIUS* (Mad.).

The Cyprian Scops-Owl is a common resident in the island. Lord Lilford found it very abundant and, no doubt, had he written his notes in these latter days, when differentiation between closely similar forms is carried out very minutely, would have anticipated Madarász in the separation of the local bird as an insular species, in view of the fact that he, in 1889, drew particular attention to the very dark plumage of all the specimens obtained by himself and his collectors in Cyprus. He was not, however, very clear as to the status of the species in the island and from his remarks evidently regarded it as mainly a summer visitor and only partially a resident. Pearse sent him specimens obtained in November and December. Müller mentions four clutches of eggs taken between May 8th and 23rd. Guillemard found it nesting in a hole in the roof of a house in the first week in May. Glaszner sent a long series to Madarász taken in January, February, March, and October. Madarász gives a three-colour-process plate of *Scops cyprius* in his paper "Ueber die Vögel Cyperns" (1904).

According to our observations the Cyprian Scops-Owl is not uncommon, and I have not infrequently found it in the summer well up the Troödos mountains. Mr. Baxendale

has observed it at Papho ; and though Lord Lilford remarks that the instance recorded by Guillemard was the only one known to him of this species nesting in a house, it is perhaps worthy of remark, that the only nest which any of us actually came across was built in a similar situation at Papho, at the end of March this year. Horsbrugh obtained several specimens in different parts of the island in March, April, and May.

706. *ATHENE NOCTUA* (Scop.).

The Little Owl, and the sub-species next dealt with, should perhaps be really treated together, for at any rate in Cyprus the bird, which is an extremely common resident, seems to range through almost every variety of shade between and including the typical forms. As *Strix passerina* it was recorded by Sibthorp: Unger and Kotschy however included it in their list as *Athene noctua*, Retz., var. *meridionalis*.

Lord Lilford, who remarked upon the sandy coloured plumage of specimens collected by himself and Pearse, consulted Seeböhm with regard to them. Seeböhm identified the collection as "a good series, all more or less intermediate between *Athene noctua* and *Athene glaux*," a conclusion more or less borne out by a series sent by Glaszner to Madarász. The latter remarks that they are, although somewhat darker than specimens from Palestine, Transcaspia, and Persia, really closer to *Athene glaux* than to *A. noctua*, whilst at any rate one specimen from Glaszner's collection could be regarded as a perfectly typical specimen of the former type. To what has already been written about this bird in Cyprus I have little to add. Müller records clutches of eggs taken between the 8th of May and the 4th of June, but we found clutches of six, highly incubated, as early as the 10th of April and fully fledged young on the 23rd of May. Miss Bate states that she never observed the species in the Troödos forest, but we obtained eggs at Kambos in 1909, and Guillemard records the bird from the summit of the southern range, while I have seen it on several occasions in the summer within a few

hundred yards of the camp. In short, it is very common, well distributed, very noticeable on account of its loud cries, which it utters incessantly at night and sometimes during the day, and extremely familiar, frequenting barns, farm-buildings and houses, and being often seen in the towns themselves. With regard to the coloration of the many specimens which we obtained, I can only say that they varied remarkably, some being extremely light and others quite dark. We kept two pairs for some time in captivity, and deposited one pair in the Zoological Gardens in London. Of these two pairs, those taken from the farm-buildings, attached to my house in Nicosia, were extremely dark, and I should regard them as typical *Athene noctua*; the second pair, taken from the sandy district at Athalassa by Mr. Barrett, was extremely light and were in my opinion equally typical of *Athene glaux*. In Cyprus I doubt if any real border-line exists between the two forms.

707. Subsp. *ATHENE GLAUX* (Savigny).

In view of what I have written with regard to the preceding species, it is unnecessary to add anything further in connexion with this form.

709. *ALUCO FLAMMEUS* (Linn.).

Strix flammea, B. O. U. List, p. 85.

The Barn or White Owl is, without doubt, very rare in Cyprus. Lord Lilford heard it at Larnaca and Famagusta, and Guillemard, in 1887, saw at the former place two individuals, which had been taken there, but he never observed the species elsewhere and only once doubtfully heard its cry during his two visits. The only specimens of which I have any knowledge is an adult, brought alive to Mr. Baxendale on the 13th of June, 1909, which had been taken near Papho, and another shot in the same district. I am unable to say what is the status of this bird in the island, but am inclined to think that it is only a straggler.

710. *GYPS FULVUS* (Gmel.).

The island is not large enough to offer a larder for very great numbers of Vultures, compared with the swarms

of hundreds I used to see round Pretoria shortly after the Boer war. The Griffon Vulture is, however, a tolerably common resident, although I do not remember seeing more than about twenty together. It nests in suitable localities in both ranges of mountains and also on the cliffs of the Akrotiri promontory. It breeds early in the year, and eggs which Horsbrugh and I obtained on the 21st and 31st of March, 1909, in the Kyrenia range, were very much incubated. We did not find many cyries nor did we see more than half a dozen pairs in the few miles of mountain which we worked: the nests each contained only one egg and were inaccessible to us without a rope, but fortune favoured us with a native guide—one Charilaou, of a village near Buffavento—whose astonishing climbing performances, after he had doffed his huge high boots, filled us with mixed feelings of envy, admiration and terror. However Mr. Michell, the Commissioner of Limassol, tells me he has taken eggs in the southern range from quite easy sites. The southern sea cliffs, again, where Lord Lilford and Guillemard found the bird at home, would require a rope. Guillemard obtained three young in early May from the eastern part of the Kyrenia hills, and also brought back an egg from the same range. In the summer months a few birds frequent the neighbourhood of the camp on Troödos, and wherever the traveller may be in the island, on a bright day he can usually see high up in the sky one of these great birds majestically soaring and watching for a carcase.

712. *VULTUR MONACHUS* Linn.

The Black Vulture was thought by Lord Lilford, who did not meet with the species himself, to be only an occasional visitor from Asia Minor. It has not hitherto been very frequently recorded from the island. An immature specimen was sent, in the spring of 1880, from Cyprus to the London Zoological Gardens by Capt. Alexander, R.E., and lived there for some years.

Guillemard came across an old, and a full grown young bird at Morphou and shot the latter, but it is not surprising to hear that its enormous bulk and other difficulties familiar

to taxidermists, damped even his desire to make a skin of it. Miss Bate mentions this species casually as sometimes to be seen in company with the preceding, and Glaszner sent Madarász an old male taken on the 2nd of March, 1902, in the Larnaca neighbourhood. The Black Vulture we found to be by no means so common as the Griffon, but we saw perhaps a dozen examples at different times. Mr. Barrett, who had a pair haunting his farm, shot for us, on April the 5th, 1909, a large male, which we were, fortunately perhaps for ourselves, unable to take in hand in time to preserve more of it than the head, wing, and feet. However, it measured 11 ft. 6 in. across the wings. When working the Kyrenia mountains in the third week in March, Horsbrugh and I came across one pair which were obviously nesting in the neighbourhood of Buffavento. Disturbed by a shot, they kept high in the air, and we were unable to make up our minds whether their eyrie was a huge nest at the top of a mighty pine tree at the bottom of a deep gorge into which we could, from the edge of a precipice some 500 ft. above, see quite clearly, or was in one of a series of crevices in the face of a towering cliff in an even more inaccessible situation.

Through the kindness of Mr. Bovill, the locality was watched by one of the Forest Guards, and eventually on the 28th of April, the egg, highly incubated, was obtained from the former site; it contained a live chick. In May and June, Horsbrugh met with the Black Vulture again, breeding on this occasion on the Troödos range, the nest being likewise placed at the top of a pine tree some forty feet from the ground. The young bird was taken by the employés of the Cyprian Mining Co. and was kept for the local director, Mr. A. Artemis, a leading Athenian advocate, and an enthusiastic member of the Cyprus Natural History Society. Mr. Nicolls informs me that he has noticed this Vulture nesting for some years past on the Troödos mountains, and the bird itself is well known to him and to other local sportsmen. It may therefore now be safely regarded as a somewhat uncommon resident in the island.

The egg which we obtained was rather heavily splashed with reddish brown, chiefly at the upper end, and measured 3.58×2.76 inches.

713. *NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS* (Linn.).

Unger and Kotschy add the Egyptian Vulture to Sibthorp's list, but it is perhaps rather remarkable that no one seems as yet to have been able to confirm their record.

714. *GYPÆTUS BARBATUS* (Linn.).

Horsbrugh and I did not expect to find the Bearded Vulture in Cyprus, but in early March, 1909, we came upon a pair in the highest portion of the Kyrenia range. One bird suddenly appeared in view in a deep ravine and sailed over our heads not fifty yards above us. We saw it again several times, and on the following day Horsbrugh observed it—and a second individual also. There could be no possible doubt as to the identification, as we had in view, practically at the same time, the Griffon and the Black Vultures as well as Eagles.

These birds may have soared over from the Taurus Mountains—then visible to us as a long glittering snow patch; but it is not at all unlikely that they had an eyrie in one of the big precipices in the mountains which we were working.

715. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS* (Linn.).

In Cyprus I frequently saw Harriers in spring and winter quartering the marshes and the plains, but unless they are shot it is impossible as a rule to identify them with certainty.

The Marsh Harrier is at any rate a fairly common visitor at the spring and autumn migrations, and may be found throughout the winter. It is quite probable that a few pairs nest in one or two localities which are suitable. Lord Lilford found it tolerably common in the marshy districts during his visit; Guillemard, who frequently mentions unidentified "Harriers" in his 'Ibis' articles, shot a male near Larnaca in early February, 1888; Glaszner obtained a male and two females in the same locality in December and

January. On the 16th of November, 1907, I came across a party of four in some rough swampy ground near Kouklia reservoir and shot a splendid old male. In late March of this year (1909) Horsbrugh met with several at the Acheritou and Kouklia reservoirs, but did not obtain a specimen.

717. *CIRCUS CINERACEUS* (Montagu).

Montagu's Harrier was added to the Cyprus list by the industry of Glaszner, who sent a single specimen to Madarász taken on September 5th, 1901, near Larnaca. I know of no other local record. It is probably only a visitor on migration and perhaps in winter.

718. *CIRCUS SWAINSONI* Smith.

The Pallid Harrier is not very uncommon and my remarks upon the Marsh Harrier might apply to its distribution and appearance.

Lord Lilford had very little doubt that a grey Harrier which he observed several times near Famagusta belonged to this species, but the first definite record was a specimen—presumed to be a male in first year's plumage—sent to him by Pearse, who obtained it on November the 2nd, 1878, at Larnaca; Müller refers to an adult male taken on February the 16th; Guillemard shot another adult male near Limassol on March the 25th, 1887; Glaszner sent to Madarász four collected in September, October, and November.

Horsbrugh came across one or two examples at the reservoirs at the end of March, 1909, and obtained a fine male at Limnia near Salamis on April the 4th, while on the 12th he and I saw another at Athalassa at quite close quarters.

719. *CIRCUS CYANEUS* (Linn.).

The Hen-Harrier is another of Glaszner's additions to the list, he having sent Madarász three—a male specimen taken on February the 1st and two females shot on October the 29th and November the 5th—all near Larnaca.

We did not obtain any specimens of this Harrier, but Horsbrugh thought that he saw two or three at the end of March and beginning of April near the reservoirs.

This species is probably mainly a visitor on migration, some individuals, however, remaining during the winter.

721. *BUTEO VULGARIS* Leach.

The Buzzard has hitherto only been obtained by Glaszner, who sent Madarász a single female specimen taken on November the 4th, 1902. I presume it would be only a winter visitor.

[725. *BUTEO FEROX* (S. G. Gmel.).

Lord Lilford observed near his yacht, when close to Cyprus on April the 14th, 1875, a bird which he had little doubt was the Long-legged Buzzard. As it has not been recorded by any other observer, it is perhaps doubtful if the species should be included in the local list at all.]

730. *HIERAËTUS FASCIATUS* (Vieill.).

No one who visits either of the mountain ranges in the island can well avoid seeing Eagles, but as a rule they are too high in the air for identification, and he seldom obtains the chance of a shot. However, generally speaking, I may state that the larger birds are the Imperial, and the smaller Bonelli's Eagle, both of which species are resident in Cyprus.

Guillemard obtained a young female of Bonelli's Eagle with some nestling down still attached, on June the 4th, 1887, from some cliffs near Khrysokhou Bay in the north-west of the island, and at the end of March in the following year, found some Eagles, which he thought were of this species, breeding near the ruins of Kantara Castle. Miss Bate saw birds on Troödos, which she believed to be Bonelli's Eagles, and my own note-book contains many references to this bird, both on the southern range in summer, and the northern in spring. Horsbrugh and I found it undoubtedly breeding at the end of March, 1909, near the ruins of Buffavento in the Kyrenia range, and in winter, on the reservoirs, I have often seen two or three individuals swooping over packs of coot and duck. But we did not find the nest, nor obtain a specimen of the bird itself. It is not a very uncommon resident.

735. *AQUILA HELIACA* Savigny.

The Imperial Eagle is a not very rare resident. A fresh unblown egg was brought to Lord Lilford at Triкомо in April, 1875, which, he was informed, had been taken in the neighbourhood of that place a few days previously; this he was completely satisfied had been produced by an Eagle of this species. Guillemard, on his first visit, found the head of an Imperial Eagle, identified by Mr. J. H. Gurney, senr., hung on a cottage door, and thought he observed it on Troödos in early June of 1887; Miss Bate also considered she had identified it in the same locality. Dr. P. L. Selater mentions in a footnote to Lord Lilford's article, that an Eagle from Cyprus was then (1899) living in the London Zoological Gardens, presented by Col. E. L. Fraser on June the 17th, 1887. It was labelled *A. nævioides* (?), but was, according to Dr. Selater, probably *A. heliaca*.

On August the 14th, 1907, I came unexpectedly on a pair sitting on an old pine tree not five yards from me, as I turned round a rock almost on the top of Mount Olympus. On the 28th of July, 1908, I found perhaps the same pair nearly in the same place and watched them for some time; on November the 17th, 1908, I picked up a freshly shot male on the shore of Acheritou reservoir; on the 29th of March, 1909, Horsbrugh, who had seen a number of Eagles near the reservoirs, obtained a fine female at Kouklia.

Horsbrugh and I had several times noticed this Eagle when working the Kyrenia mountains towards the end of March (1909), but could not locate its nest. Through the kindness of Mr. Bovill, the principal Forest Officer, the locality was watched, and on April the 29th, the structure, a large clumsy mass of branches placed at the top of a tall pine tree, was discovered by the forest guard, and the two, very slightly incubated, eggs were brought to us; they measured 2.86×2.16 and 2.85×2.28 inches respectively.

739. *HALIAËTUS ALBICILLA* (Linn.).

Major Jones, late of the 50th Foot, writing in the 'Field' of May 11th, 1889, states that the White-tailed Eagle is

sometimes met with in Cyprus. I have no doubt that this statement is correct, as Horsbrugh observed and identified this bird at the Acheritou reservoir during early April of this year, where he had ample opportunity of observing it amongst the water-fowl with which the great sheet of water was covered. He did not succeed in shooting a specimen. It is probably a visitor on migration and perhaps in winter.

[745. *ASTUR PALUMBARIUS* (Linn.).

Unger and Kotschy add the Goshawk to Sibthorp's list, and attach to the name the Greek word "Ἱερακι." This term was also used by Sibthorp to designate the local name of a hawk which he could not identify, but called *Falco ierax*. "Ἱερακι" has no very special meaning in Cyprus, and would be used by a Cypriote for almost any "Hawk."

No one since has observed the Goshawk in the island, and Madarász is of the opinion that Unger and Kotschy mistook large male specimens of the Sparrow-Hawk for Goshawks, and that the name of the present species should be deleted from the Cypriote list. Sibthorp's name *F. ierax* also seems to be suggestive of a bird which appeared to him akin to the Sparrow-Hawk, and does not seem to indicate *Astur palumbarius*; and I therefore agree with Madarász that, at present, the latter has no proper claim to be included in the Cypriote avifauna.]

748. *ACCIPITER NISUS* (Linn.).

The Sparrow-Hawk was probably one of Sibthorp's unidentified hawks for which he used the Greek name "Φαλκόνι," which, under that title, Unger and Kotschy definitely assign to *A. nisus*, though Sibthorp states that *his* bird was "something like a Buzzard." It was not met with by Lord Lilford or Guillemard, nor recorded by Müller, but Pearse sent home an adult male obtained in 1879, and Glaszner despatched eight examples to Madarász, collected near Larnaca in October, November, and January.

Horsbrugh and I came across about a dozen between March the 7th and April the 16th, 1909, in the plains, and obtained several specimens. Mr. Barrett had shot several at

his farm at Athalassa during the winter and in the spring, when they work havoc amongst his numerous chickens. The bird appears to be a winter visitor only, and no doubt more common than at other times in the seasons of migration.

The Cypriotes do use the word “Φαλκόνι” to designate this—and other—hawks.

751. *MILVUS ICTINUS* Savigny.

The Kite is only known in Cyprus from a female sent by Glaszner to Madarász, taken near Larnaca on September 22nd, 1901. It may be sometimes a visitor on migration and perhaps also in winter.

756. *PERNIS APIVORUS* (Linn.).

Glaszner has the credit of adding the Honey Buzzard to the Cypriote list, he having sent Madarász three male specimens, obtained in the neighbourhood of Larnaca in September and October, 1901. I know of no other local record of this species, but presume it to be an occasional visitor in the spring and autumn migrations.

762. *FALCO CHERRUG* J. E. Gray.

The Saker has hitherto, so far as I am aware, been very rarely recorded from Cyprus. Lord Lilford's yacht when close to Cyprus, though not in sight of land, was visited by a hawk, which he believed to be of this species. Pearse sent to Lord Lilford an adult male, labelled Beila (probably Pyla, near Larnaca), 14th of October, 1878. Horsbrugh picked up, or rather found in a small tree, a very dilapidated dead bird of this species near Acheritou in early April, 1909, of which he brought home such parts as he could, to be identified by Dr. Sharpe. I suppose that this Falcon, like the preceding species, is an occasional visitor, at the seasons of migration.

764. *FALCO PEREGRINUS* Tunstall.

Mediaeval writers speak of Peregrines in Cyprus, and possibly Unger and Kotschy are correct in referring one of Sibthorp's unidentified hawks—which he proposed to call *Falco melanops*, presumably from the local Greek name

“Μαβρομάτι” which he uses—to *F. peregrinus*, though Sibthorp speaks of his bird as having a “blue tail.” It is impossible to say with much confidence what Sibthorp meant, but “blue tail” and “Μαβρομάτι” seem to me to fit better La Marmora’s Falcon. The Peregrine was not met with by Lord Lilford, but Guillemard makes several references to it in his ‘Ibis’ articles; he bought a live female in the plumage of the first year in the Famagusta bazaar at the end of February, 1888, shot an adult of the same sex on March the 21st, near the same locality, and found two pairs—presumably nesting—in early May, near the ruins of St. Hilarion Castle on the Kyrenia range. Lord Lilford, however, thought that *F. peregrinus* was only a winter visitor, and that *F. punicus* would be found to be the form of Peregrine breeding in Cyprus. None of us have as yet succeeded in obtaining a specimen of either species, and at present, therefore, I am not in a position to comment confidently on Lord Lilford’s suggestion. A Peregrine—whichever it may be—is by no means uncommon; I have frequently seen it on Troödos in the summer, and when shooting at Papho in September, 1908, Mr. T. Greenwood and I were “waited on” persistently by a pair, which in one day took from the former no less than three wounded Turtle-doves. In that district they prey, no doubt, chiefly on the large flocks of Rock-doves which dwell in the southern cliffs, and I have seen the Peregrines swoop and strike as the doves wound down in a straggling stream to the sesame and bean fields. During this September I should say I saw in the Papho neighbourhood, quite a dozen Peregrines. Horsbrugh and I found a pair, evidently nesting, in the precipice below the ruins of Buffavento, but the spot where we thought their eyrie was situated was hopelessly inaccessible.

765. *FALCO PUNICUS* Levaill.

Lord Lilford saw a single bird near Salamis on the 1st of May, 1875, which he was sure was the Lesser Peregrine. As mentioned above he was of the opinion that it was probable that this species nested in the island, and that the typical

F. peregrinus was only a winter visitor. However, so far as I am aware, no other record exists of the occurrence of *F. punicus* locally, and my remarks on the preceding species explain my view of Lord Lilford's theory.

768. *FALCO ÆSALON* Tunstall.

The Merlin in Cyprus is mentioned as early as 1598 (!) but was first definitely recorded by Lord Lilford, who saw one or two examples near Famagusta in April, 1875. Pearse obtained a single specimen in 1879 and Müller mentions an immature male taken on November the 26th. Guillemard does not mention this species in his 'Ibis' articles, but obtained an adult male at Famagusta on March the 20th, 1888. Glaszner sent specimens to Madarász taken in November and December near Larnaca, and Horsbrugh met with it at Acheritou on April the 4th, 1907.

It is a winter visitor.

769. *FALCO SUBBUTEO* Linn.

The Hobby is another of Glaszner's additions to the Cypriote list, he having sent to Madarász three specimens, two males and one female, taken respectively near Larnaca on May the 22nd, 1901, on Tröodos, September the 18th, 1902, and near Livadia on September the 20th, 1901, the last being the female. In the spring specimen the plumage was much worn, indicating, to Madarász's view, that the species probably nests in the island. This of course is possible, but I think it is much more likely that it is only a spring and autumn visitor.

770. *FALCO ELEONORÆ* Gené.

Eleonora's or La Marmora's Falcon was first observed by Lord Lilford, who found several pairs about the cliffs near Cape Gata on May the 8th, 1875. Guillemard found, and shot a specimen in the same place in early March, 1887, but was apparently unable to retrieve it, but he brought home a fine dark specimen shot in the same neighbourhood in 1886 by an officer of the 49th Foot. Horsbrugh shot a good male at Kouklia near Papho on the 23rd of May, 1909. I think that

there is little doubt that this beautiful Falcon is resident, and breeds on these cliffs, which are amongst the few steep shores of the island.

771. *FALCO VESPERTINUS* Linn.

Tinnunculus vespertinus Gray, B. O. U. List, p. 103.

Müller records that Schlüter received from Cyprus no less than twelve specimens of the Red-footed Falcon, consisting of male and female adults and several immature birds, together with a considerable number of clutches of eggs varying in number from four to five, which were taken between the 16th of April and the 23rd of May (1878). Lord Lilford met with this species only on one occasion, namely, on May the 6th, 1875, not far from Limassol, where, towards evening, a considerable number suddenly appeared, one of which he shot. It does not seem to have been observed by Guillemard, but Glaszner sent six to Madarász taken in September and October near Larnaca. I am very doubtful as to the correctness of Müller's statements about the eggs which he received really belonging to this species; from what he writes, it is evident that the consignment of eggs included large numbers of those of the Common and Lesser Kestrels, and as the eggs of the former are very easily confused with those of the Red-footed Falcon, and as Cyprus seems somewhat outside the breeding-range of the present species, I am inclined to regard *F. vespertinus* only as a visitor on its spring and autumn migrations.

773. *FALCO TINNUNCULUS*, Linn.

Tinnunculus alaudarius, B. O. U. List, p. 104.

The Kestrel is a common resident but its numbers are swollen by migrants in spring and autumn: at these seasons migrating-parties of a dozen or a score are often observed. I have many notes of its occurrence during every month in the year. I have taken eggs as early as April 12th and as late as May 23rd, but I have also found the young hatched on the 3rd of May. From our examination of the contents of their crops they would appear to feed entirely on lizards and

various large insects. It may often be seen perched on trees or buildings in the centre of the towns.

774. *FALCO CENCHRIS* Naum.

Tinnunculus cenchris, B. O. U. List, p. 104.

The Lesser Kestrel is a very common summer visitor, but though Lord Lilford regarded it as more abundant than the preceding species, such is not our experience, as the large majority of the many Kestrels that we shot and of the nests we took belonged to *F. tinnunculus*. As Guillemard met with it in February it is possible that some individuals remain throughout the winter, but my own notes, at present, cover it over no further a period than March to September. Guillemard seems to have thought that it was nesting in March, but in our experience it does not commence to deposit its eggs till about mid-April, and we found full fresh clutches on the 5th of May. It breeds in Cyprus in the same localities as the preceding species, the eggs, when laid in a crevice of the rocks, lying practically bare in a slight hollow on a little loose soil. We found nothing but lizards, beetles, and locusts and other insects in their crops.

[To be continued.]

II.—*The Ornithological Collections of the University of Cambridge.* By H. GADOW, M.A., F.R.S., Strickland Curator.

THE Ornithological Collections belonging to the University of Cambridge are kept in the Museum of Zoology, in charge of the Strickland Curator.

The nucleus of the Museum's Natural History Collections was formed by the Cambridge Philosophical Society, which transferred its specimens to the University.

The Ornithological Department may be said to have come into existence with the bequest of the collection of birds formed by Strickland and the endowment of a Strickland Curatorship, the chief duty of the holder of this post being the custody and arrangement of the "Strickland Collection"